

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-10 SP-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 SNM-02 SR-02 ORM-01 ABF-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-02 /075 W
----- 122899

R 011135Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3667
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USUN NEW YORK 3706

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4347

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF UNRWA EX UK FR EG

SUBJECT: ARAB FUNDING FOR UNRWA

REF: CAIRO 4145

1. FRENCH DCM LUCET INFORMED POL/ECON COUNSELOR APR 29 HIS EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO APPROACH GOE ON MATTER OF ARAB SUPPORT FOR UNRWA. LUCET CALLED ON COUNSELOR YUSEF SHARARA, MFA, INTL ORG AFFAIRS, TO DISCUSS MATTER.

2. SHARARA TOLD LUCET GOE WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN INCREASING ARAB SUPPORT FOR UNRWA, BUT THERE WERE INHERENT PROBLEMS IN SITUATION. SHARARA SAID IT WOULD BE USEFUL WERE THERE TO BE SOME "TOKEN MOVE" ON PART OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHICH COULD BE USED TO PROMPT ARABS TO CONTRIBUTE MORE THEMSELVES. SHARARA ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT UN ITSELF MIGHT PLACE STAFF OF UNRWA ON ITS PAYROLL, THUS ABSORBING SALARIES WHICH WERE A SIZEABLE CHUNK OF UNRWA'S EXPENSES. SHARARA SAID ARAB COUNTRIES NEEDED A "FOR-
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MULA" TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA WHICH WOULD HELP

THEM AVOID PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS: ARABS DO NOT LIKE TO THINK OF PALESTINIANS AS REFUGEES AND DO NOT WISH TO RELIEVE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEALING WITH UNRWA CRISIS.

3. POL/ECON COUNSELOR INDICATED TO LUCET THAT SUGGESTION SALARIES TO BE ABSORBED BY UN WAS A NON-STARTER. LUCET AGREED. WHEN ASKED IF SHARARA WAS SIMPLY SAYING IT WOULD BE HELPFUL WERE ARABS TO FIND "FORMULA" TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTION OR THAT ARABS WERE ACTIVELY SEEKING SUCH A FORMULA, LUCET RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT SURE, BUT IT WAS MORE LIKELY THE FORMER.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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